



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES
820 Millilani Street, Suite 817
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

LATE
Testimony

January 27, 2011

TO: The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: David Hipp, Acting Executive Director

SUBJECT: **HB 684, Relating to Minors**

Hearing: Thursday, January 27, 2011; 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

The Office of Youth Service (OYS) supports House Bill 684, Relating to Minors, which would allow a minor to give informed consent for emergency shelter and related services.

The purpose of this bill is to assure that there are safe shelter options for homeless, runaway, or so-called "throw-away" youth who currently lack regular nighttime residence and related services. Some choose to leave their homes for various reasons, while others, such as the throwaways, are denied housing by their parent, legal guardian, or custodian. These youth may not be abused, neglected, or subject to imminent harm criteria which may make them eligible for DHS services. Nevertheless, these youth are at-risk because they cannot access shelter and other services available to the homeless due to an agency's inability to contact parents/guardians, the youth refuses to provide contact information or that the parents/guardians refuse to give consent for services. It is in the best interest of the youth to be provided adequate emergency shelter and related services in lieu of returning to the streets.

OYS requested the Department of the Attorney General (AG) review the bill. Based on a cursory analysis, a revision is recommended that lines 16-18 on Page 1 be amended to read as follows:

- (1) The provider has [~~not been able~~] made a good faith effort to contact the minor's parent, legal guardian, or custodian to obtain consent for emergency shelter and related services [-] but has been unable to do so.

Should our Deputy Attorney General make additional recommendations for amendments, we will immediately forward that information to this Committee for your consideration.

With the above amendment, the Office of Youth Services supports this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this manner.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2011 5:14 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: uso43@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB684 on 1/27/2011 9:00:00 AM

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Testimony for HUS 1/27/2011 9:00:00 AM HB684

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kanani Kuuahale
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: uso43@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/26/2011

Comments:

I have lived in Pai Olu emergency shelter and have experienced first hand that the services they provide will help the Keiki.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 27, 2011 7:50 AM
To: HUSTestimony
Cc: cattee@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB684 on 1/27/2011 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: HB.wps

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Testimony for HUS 1/27/2011 9:00:00 AM HB684

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cathie Alana
Organization: Individual
Address: 85-890 Waianae Valley Rd. Waianae, Hi 96792
Phone: 808-389-1967
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Submitted on: 1/27/2011

Comments:

January 27,2011

Cathie Alana
PO Box 17418
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Committee Members

This testimony is to express my support of HB 684. My belief that immediate assistance to an emergency is the best way to reduce both harm to the juvenile and the community. Too many of our population fall through the cracks of the best efforts of the social service system. When they do come back into our systems it is at a higher level of care.

I believe that HB 684 will be one step towards providing immediate care and protects both the juvenile and the service provider. The current statues are already in place that defines the definitions of providers.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Cathie Alana MPA, CSAC,LMT